

YOUR ORGANIZATION Can Help Prevent Child Neglect in Your Community

Good News—It's Preventable!

We all have a role to play in ensuring that families can meet their children's needs.

It's everyone's responsibility. Together We Can Do More.

Communities are ultimately responsible for the welfare of children.



Ways Prevention Programs Can Provide Support:

Support families in learning about and building protective factors. For more information about the protective factors framework, visit:

<http://www.friendsnc.org/protective-factors>
<http://www.ctfalliance.org/onlinetraining.htm>

1. Remind parents of what they do well when stressful situations challenge their parenting confidence.
2. Listen, empathize and instill hope whenever you speak with families confronting challenges.
3. Support parents in developing playgroups where they can come together and support one another while their children play with peers.
4. Become knowledgeable about your community resources and how to help families access them.
5. Help organizations and policymakers change the dialogue among family strengthening organizations and community-based resources from blaming parents to recognizing that sometimes parents are doing the best they can, and with adequate resources the "neglectful" situation could be eliminated.



Developing Collaborative Relationships to Strengthen Communities:

1. Partner with family strengthening organizations and other community agencies to develop a community-wide plan to support healthy families and prevent child neglect.
2. Provide training, resources and supports to board members or volunteers in your organization to engage others in order to expand the conversation about the importance of child neglect prevention.
3. Participate in neighborhood meetings with families and other community agency representatives to learn about needs and gaps in services and to share information about available resources.



Addressing Policy and Public Awareness:

1. Increase the awareness of board members, legislators and other policymakers about the benefits of shifting funding to programs identified as effective in strengthening families and preventing child neglect.
2. Identify, engage and support parents to talk with family strengthening organizations and other community agencies about how neglect can happen and ways to prevent it.
3. Write a letter to the editor about what families in your community need and how meeting family needs can reduce the likelihood of child neglect.
4. Talk to your legislators about:
 - developing new resources if there are gaps or
 - expanding resources for families when needed.

What is Neglect?

It's more than a Family Matter

Child neglect is a failure to meet children's basic needs (e.g. food, clothing, medical care, supervision, shelter) whether the failure is the responsibility of parents, communities or society – and this void, places children in harm's way.

(National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds)

The whole community benefits when children grow up to be healthy productive adults. Together We Can Do More!

For more information, contact: _____

